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SOME

NOTES

Concerning the

LIFE

OF

EDWARD Lord *NORTH*,

BARON of *KIRTLING*,

wrote 1658.

Inter bonos non obſoleſcit beneficiorum memoria.

By Sir *DUDLEY NORTH*
Lord *NORTH*.

[1682]

TO MY

Eldeſt Son.

SINCE it hath pleaſed God to ſet you in a condition, whereby you are likely to be entruſted, with the honour of your Houſe, and of all which is moſt precious belonging to it, I have judged you the perſon to whom I might moſt fitly recommend the enſuing diſcourſe, being an Hiſtorical Narration of the Life and Actings of the Raiſer of your Family. Whatſoever you may find this ſmall Work to be in it ſelf, yet I know you will be carefull to preſerve it in being, in reſpect of its relation

to the perſon who is the Subject of it, and to whom we owe our eminency, if any we have. I doubt not but your own curioſity will exact at your hands the reading of it, and the fault will not be great if you doe it more than once; for beſides that which relateth to your Family, you ſhall there find ſome things concerning the Hiſtory of thoſe times, which are not eaſie to be met with elſewhere; but the beſt uſe that you can make of your reading is this, the taking of your Anceſtour as a precedent to direct the courſe of your life hereafter, which cuſtome was uſual with the old Romans, *and very much ſtirred up their* Patricii *or young Nobles in the way of Vertue. You are now in the prime of your age (as to the active part of it,) and having the advantage of ſo much time before you, it may pleaſe God to give you much more liberty to diſpoſe of your ſelf and of your courſes, than I have had. Doe then as this Progenitor of yours did, Firſt gain abilities*

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by ſtudy and obſervation in your youth, and afterwards employ thoſe abilities in the ſervice of God and your Country. As for your own perſon and private fortunes, it will be imprudence not to ſeek their preſervation, and you may be inſtructed by this good Example, to endeavour the advancement of them, as far as it may be done without hindrance of a greater good; for ſuch an ambition is ſo far from being unlawfull, as it gives wings (or rather being) to many deſigns tending to publick benefit. For me, it will be my part to aſſiſt you by my prayers, and otherwiſe according to my ability; and for ſuch aſſiſtances, you ſhall be ſure to receive them at the hands of

Your moſt truly

affectionate Father.

SOME NOTES Concerning the LIFE OF *EDWARD* LORD *NORTH*, BARON of *KIRTLING.*

SUCH was the piety of the ancient heathen *Romans* towards their deceaſed Parents, as it became uſual to ſacrifice to the Gods for them: Nay at laſt it grew to that height, as many of the *Roman* Emperours thought not their duty ſufficiently performed, unleſs they ranked their Parents in the number of their Gods, and ſo turned that which formerly had been received as commendable, into a very high Impiety. Among the ancient Chriſtians (and very near the times of primitive Purity) the former was ſo far revived, as it became a note of Piety to pray for their parents departed; and the cuſtom was ſo generally applauded, as it grew to extend it

ſelf to Benefactours as well as to Parents; and in this the Clergy men, as being conceived to pray more effectually than others, found ſo great an advantage, as they have thought fit to give it continuance even unto this day in the Romiſh Church. But the uſe of Prayer in that kind is now juſtly exploded by our reformed Divines as an errour, and I ſhall leave the confutation of it to them, as a thing moſt proper to their profeſſion; yet thus much may be delivered as a certainty, that a reverend affection to Parents and Benefactours, which was the ground of that cuſtom, is not only lawfull but praiſeworthy: And ſo natural it is to me, as where I conceive my ſelf to have received a great benefit from one who hath finiſhed his courſe in this life, it conſtantly poſſeſſeth my thoughts, that ſomething is to be done by way of gratitude towards him. And thus it was with me in relation to *Edward* Lord *North*, the common Parent and raiſer of our Family, till my peruſal of the old and almoſt worn-out Papers remaining at *Kirtling*, gave me a ground-work to leave ſomething behind me, which might preſerve the memory of a perſon of ſo much Vertue and Eminency. Yet ſome things have occurred to my thoughts by way of diſcouragement, to divert me from ſuch a purpoſe. As firſt this, That ſince he was *Propriæ Fortunæ Faber*, and raiſed himſelf upon a ſmall baſis, wanting the advantage of a high and noble extraction,

extraction, it would become a derogation to us of his Poſterity to mention his beginnings. In this I quickly ſatisfied my ſelf, for my intention relateth only to a perſon whoſe aſſertion was, That they were only truly noble whoſe own Vertue rendred them ſo; and theſe memorials are not deſigned for publick uſe, but only to remain with us his Progeny, who from the conſideration of his advancement may take occaſion to praiſe God the more highly, for the great induſtry and proſperity of our Anceſtor. And yet we may juſtly affirm thus much concerning his Deſcent, that he derived it from a family of ancient Gentry, though perhaps not ſo remarkable for greatneſs of Eſtate as many others; nor ſhall we bluſh to hear that even that moderate luſtre of his was ſomewhat abated by his Father's application of himſelf to become a Citizen of *London*, for that courſe of life in our later times, is grown uſual in very conſiderable families with younger Brothers (in which rank his Father was) in ſo much as many of them by that means have ſo outſtript the chief branch of their houſe, as now to be enrowled with the greater Nobility, and to wear Coronets. Another diſſwaſive was this, That as we have no light at all in that which he did during his youth, ſo not in very many particulars after the time of his activity. The former part of this argument muſt not prevail with any man, who hath but ſo much

Chriſtianity

Chriſtianity as to eſteem the Evangelical Hiſtory, and the latter part being but a proof of his modeſty, rendring it probable he conceived it a degree of vanity to leave any record of his actions in writing, whereby he might have ſeemed to covet fame with after Ages, it became rather an incentive than a weakning to me in my deſire to continue the remembrance of that which either appeareth, or may be recovered concerning him; and I doubt not but I ſhall deliver that which is ſufficient to ſatisfie any indifferent Reader, concerning the great worth of the perſon whoſe Character I undertake.

To make therefore an entry upon the Relation, *Edward* Lord *North* was the Son (and for ought we know, the only Son) of *Roger North*, and of *Chriſtian Warcop* his Wife, deſcended of a good Family of Gentry in *Yorkſhire*, of that name; and he was born about the year of our Lord 1496, as near as we can conjecture, and during the reign of King *Henry* the 7th. This *Roger* was of the Family of the *Norths* of *Walkeringam* in the County of *Nottingham*, which *Norths* had preſerved a ſmall Fortune in that County and place for many Generations, without any conſiderable encreaſe or diminution, living always in the quality of private Gentlemen, untill the days of the ſaid *Edward* Lord *North*; and many years after, till the chief of that Race, by a Shreivalty caſt upon him, with many charge-

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able ſuits in Law, and by the prodigality of his eldeſt Son, who unhappily had taken upon him the honour of Knighthood, was enforced to part with ſo much Land, as it cauſed his Heirs to fall out with the Manſion houſe, and ſell it to the *Perpoints*, who at this time are owners of it. The affection of *Edward* Lord *North* to his Kindred of *Walkeringam*, was always very great, and ſo was his care of them in their prime concernments, and eſpecially of *Edward North* their Chief in that age; for in ſettling the greateſt part of his eſtate by way of Entail, he preferred this *Edward* and his Poſterity, before the Houſe of *Worceſter*, and all other Deſcendents of his own Daughters, whoſe Iſſue was ſufficiently numerous.

This *Roger*, as hath been intimated, being a Citizen of *London*, never attained to any eminency of Eſtate, yet was he not ſo ſtraitned in his fortune, but that he could and did afford to his Son a coſtly way of breeding, training him up at the Inns of Court in the ſtudy of the Law. Like a good and wiſe Parent, diſcerning in his Child a capacity too large to exerciſe it ſelf in his own narrow courſe of Mercery, he found out for him (though not without ſome inconvenience to himſelf) a way of greater extent and activity, which it pleaſed God very highly to bleſs, as ſhall appear in the ſequel of this narration. From the little that is known of what he did in the prime of his years, we may conclude, and not unfitly, that being

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of an induſtrious nature he ſpent his time at firſt about the laying of a foundation in the way of his profeſſion by Study, and that afterwards having gained abilities, he ſought to render himſelf and his parts known, by applying himſelf to a fair and moderate practice of the Law in a plauſible way; in which he made ſo fair a progreſs, as it appears, that he came to be of Council for the City of *London*, and had a yearly Fee for that ſervice, though it be not known at what time of his age he came to be ſo.

The firſt publick employment of his that we have evidence for, is this, his having the Clerkſhip of Parliament by grant from King *Henry* the 8th. in the year 1530, which it ſeems in thoſe days was an office of much more reſpect than now it is, for he had it firſt by Patent jointly with Sir *Bryan Tuke*, and then wholly to himſelf, and it was afterwards enjoyed by Sir *William Pagett*, then Secretary of State, and ſo it came to Sir *John Maſon*, and others: But had the place been of meaner condition, he had wiſedom ſufficient to inſtruct him, that it is better for thoſe who have their fortunes to make, to play at ſmall game, than to ſit out. About this time, as by all other fair ways, ſo in that of Marriage he ſought his advancement, and eſpouſed himſelf to his firſt Wife, who being a Widow and having had two Husbands, brought him ſuch an increaſe, as not long after, he purchaſed his

his Manor of *Kirtling*. This was about the 33d. year of his age, which ſheweth that he was not haſty in parting with his liberty, for he well knew the want of that to be one of the chief *remoras* to young men, as to their applications in the way of preferment otherwiſe, and therefore when he came to ſell himſelf, he ſuffered not his affections to over-rule his judgment, but made ſuch a choice, as to be ſure in ſome meaſure, that the advantages of his Wifes eſtate ſhould not be overballanced by any natural indiſpoſitions or ill diſpoſitions adhering to, or inherent in her perſon. And not many years after this, his Sun began to aſcend very faſt towards its Zenith, for the King having taken a reſolution to ſhake off the Papal yoke, he drew to his ſervice from all parts, the moſt able and active ſpirits, and among others this worthy perſon, ſo as in the year 1536, he became one of the King's Sergeants at Law, for ſo we find him ſtyled by the King himſelf in a grant then made to him. And now the diſſolution of Monaſteries being enacted by Parliament, and the Court of Augmentations being erected for the ordering of that new acceſſion to the Crown, it pleaſed the King about the year 1540, to confer upon him the office of Treaſurerſhip of that Court, which he enjoyed about four years, and during that time, in the year 1542, by the name of Sir *Edward North* (for he had received the honour of Knighthood) he was High Sheriff of

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the Counties of *Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and alſo elected to ſerve in Parliament as Knight of the Shire for *Cambridge-ſhire*, which two employments did rarely concur in one and the ſame perſon. And afterwards in the year 1544, he firſt became Chancellour of the Augmentations joyntly with Sir *Richard Rich*, afterwards Lord *Rich*, and Chancellour of *England*; and within a few months following, ſole Chancellour of that Court, by reſignation of the ſaid Sir *Richard Rich* unto him, and ſo he enjoyed that great office alone about four years; in which time (as we ſuppoſe) he might well have raiſed his fortunes double to the proportion he left to his Family, if he had not been a perſon of very great integrity. But though his particular actions in the managing of that great truſt were ſincere, and ſo not much obnoxious to detraction, yet his acting in an affair ſo highly offenſive to the Roman Catholick party, expoſed him to the cenſure of ſome of his own poſterity of that profeſſion; for upon ſome declinations in the houſe which he had raiſed, they have not forborn to impute the diminutions to that only cauſe, as a crime that had been the deſtruction of many Families ſo raiſed, and would be the Cataſtrophe of his. I conceive this to ſavour too much of temerity, if it be not injurious, but I intend not to undertake the vindication of this and other States, in their power of ſetting out at the firſt (or giving continuance to) a fit proportion

tion for the maintenance of thoſe, either ſingle perſons or Fraternities, which are ſet apart for external ſervice in the way of Religion, which power was not a thing altogether new in thoſe times, as may appear by the Statute of *Mortmayne*, whereby dedications in the way of Piety were much prevented; and why may not a State finding the exceſs very prejudicial to the whole Nation (who may challenge a higher charity than any part whatſoever) as well anihilate ſuch gifts already made as prevent them? for Dedication ſeemeth to conſiſt rather in the declared intention of the giver, than in the approbation of Governours, either Eccleſiaſtical or Temporal. Neither ſhall I define how little ſubjects are blamable for executing the decrees of their ſupreme Magiſtracy, though unjuſt or ſeeming irreligious, albeit it were an obſtruction ſcarcely recoverable in a State, if ſubordinate Miniſters ſhould be obliged to diſpute the rectitude or obliquity of every decree. But certainly it can be no other than a high preſumption, to apply the judgments of the Almighty with too much ſtrictneſs to ſuch and ſuch a particular cauſe, for as the judgments are evident and expoſed to the view of all, ſo their grounds lie concealed in the clouds and darkneſs which are ſaid to encompaſs the Deity; and many times thoſe who are cruſhed under a puniſhment, do no more exceed their fellows in guiltineſs, than they in the Goſpel on whom the Tower of *Siloah* fell.

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But to leave this digreſſion, Sir *Edward North* now ſtood ſo high in the favour of his Prince, as he put him into the roll of Privy-Counſellours, and made frequent grants of Land as a teſtimony of his favour, and of the good acceptance of the ſervices done by him. Theſe were great encouragements, and could not but carry with them as great a ſatisfaction to the receiver, but it was ſo uſual with this King to throw down thoſe whom he had raiſed, as it made his great ones *Stare ſempre in cervello*, (as the *Italians* term it) or *to be watchfull*, carrying ſtill in their minds the inſtability of the ground whereon they ſtood. And to give ſome taſt how dangerous a Maſter he ſerved, and how apprehenſive he was of a change in the way of diſpleaſure, I ſhall here inſert a relation which came to me, though not immediately, from one who being himſelf an Attendant in his Bed-chamber, then when the matter paſſed, was an eye and ear Witneſs of it, and this it is. That once early in the morning there came from the King to *Charterhouſe*, then the Manſion houſe of Sir *Edward North*, a Meſſenger known to be no friend of his, to command his immediate repair to Court, which meſſage was alſo delivered with ſome harſhneſs. This was ſo terrible in the ſuddainneſs and other circumſtances, as he obſerved his Maſter to tremble at the delivery of it, who yet finding it dangerous to uſe the leaſt delay, haſted thither, and was admitted ſpeedily to the

the King's preſence with this his Servant attending on him. The King was then walking, and continued doing ſo with great earneſtneſs, and ever now and then caſt an angry eye upon him, which was received with a very ſtill and ſober carriage. At laſt the King brake out into theſe words, We are informed that you have cheated us of certain Lands in *Middleſex*, whereunto having received no other than a plain and humble negation, after ſome little ſpace he replyed, How was it then, did We give thoſe Lands to you? whereunto Sir *Edward* anſwered, yes, Sir, Your Majeſty was pleaſed ſo to doe. Whereupon having pauſed a little, the King put on a milder countenance, and called him to a Cupboard, conferring privately with him a long time; whereby, ſaid this Servant, I ſaw that the King could not ſpare my Maſter's ſervice as yet; but whether or no the cauſe lay in the King's occaſions, or in the other's humble behaviour and anſwers, it muſt be left to judgment, for as *Solomon* ſaith, *A ſoft anſwer turneth away wrath.*

But to purſue the Series of our diſcourſe, King *Henry* after a long and ſtrange proſperity in all his undertakings, which were extraordinary and full of hazard, came to breath his laſt in the year of Grace 1546, and as a full and final teſtimony of his confidence in the integrity of Sir *Edward North*, he conſtituted him one of his Executors, leaving unto divers others of his Council, perſons of more

eminent condition, the title of Overſeers of his Teſtament, a character of higher honour, but of leſt truſt. And ſeeing that this King was ſo great a benefactour to the perſon who is the occaſion of this tractate, I ſhall adventure to borrow ſo much time of the Reader, as to ſay thus much more of him. I know that many things are laid to his charge, as that he was burthenſom to his Subjects and yet a waſter, That he was Sanguinary and Voluptuous almoſt to the height. As I will not go about to abſolve him concerning theſe, ſo I ſhall leave it to others who may conceive themſelves more proper for it, to ſet him out in ſuch colours, but thus much I ſhall take upon me to ſay on his behalf, That he was endued with very great and royal abilities, and that of all the governours of our Nation he is the only Prince meriting to be ſtyled Arbiter of the moſt important affairs of Chriſtendom, (or the Ballancer as *Guicchiardin* calls him) and this he did by aſſiſtance conſtantly, but variouſly given in the Wars between *Charles* the 5th. Emperour of *Germany*, and *Francis* the firſt of *France*, ſtill ſupporting the weaker and oppoſing the ſtronger, by which means he kept thoſe Princes ſtill in play one againſt the other, and ſo eſtabliſhed his own ſecurity, and in that reſpect was very fitly honoured with this Motto, *Cui adhereo præeſt.* And I think that the bittereſt of his enemies muſt give him this teſtimony, That he was no leſs bountifull

tifull in his Rewards, than ſevere in his Puniſhments, that he maintained the honour of the Nation with Foreign Princes in point of power, and that he carried on the worſt of his actions relating to the publick, with a concurrence of his Parliaments, which howſoever his heart was diſpoſed, yet ſheweth a very great dexterity of Brain. But that which leaveth him the greateſt glory is this, That he laid the ground-work of a Reformation in the Church of *England*, which afterwards grew to that perfection, as juſtly to be deemed by judicious perſons, the beſt tempered of any in the Chriſtian World.

And now upon his death the Scene is wholly changed, for in ſtead of an active King, who for the moſt part governed his own affairs, the Crown is fallen to a Prince, who by reaſon of his Nonage being not able to govern himſelf, and much leſs two ſo potent Nations, falleth under the tuition of his Servants, whoſe nature is ſuch, as they ſeldom fail to be guided by their own ambition rather than the improvement of their Maſter's intereſts. And this renders the providence of God the more conſpicuous, for in this King's days the Reformation of the Church was exalted almoſt to the height, and in a way of more Purity than before, for King *Henry* ſeemed rather to ſeek the abolition of Papal authority, which ſo far reſtrained his Regal power, than any other change in the Arti-

cles of the then received Faith; but during the reign of King *Edward*, there was an aim at the eſtabliſhment of Truth, even in ſuch points of belief as had ſmall relation to that competition for power. But to return to our buſineſs, the perſon whoſe Life we endeavour to deſcribe, ſoon found a difference between his old Maſter King *Henry*, who already had gratified moſt of thoſe which had ſhewed themſelves active in his ſervice, and the Duke of *Somerſet* newly made Protector of the King's perſon; for this man, that he may advance to places of honour and power thoſe perſons who have their dependance upon him, muſt either find or force a way for the effecting of it, with them who are in poſſeſſion of thoſe dignities. And King *Edward* had not reigned two years, before *Richard Sackvill* Eſq; had the Chancellourſhip of the Augmentations in his eye, and with all ſo great an intereſt in the Protector, as to engage him ſtrongly in the purſuit. For the Protector ſoon cauſed the buſineſs to be propoſed to the perſon whom it chiefly concerned, and he finding himſelf too weak to wreſtle with a man that did little leſs than govern the whole Kingdom in thoſe days, thought fit ſo far to give way, as to bring the matter to a treaty, wherein he carried himſelf ſo like his arts Maſter, (though the Protector in perſon was witneſs to moſt of it,) as he parted with the place upon terms very conſiderable for honour, ſecurity, and profit,

profit; and yet ordered the buſineſs in ſuch a manner, as the Protector could not but take himſelf to be obliged in it, as may appear by the articles of agreement between *Sackvill* and him, and by other writings under Seal belonging to that buſineſs, where the expreſſions ſeem to lay all the weight upon the Lord Protector, who is therein ſtyled Mr. *Sackvill*'s good Lord. Thus by his wiſedom, he not only prevented a miſchief which might have befallen him in the oppoſition, and preſerved himſelf in the dignity of a Privy Counſellor, but gained a freſh intereſt in the Duke of *Somerſet*, that might have made him great returns; But it pleaſed God to diſpoſe of matters otherwiſe, for the Protector ſoon loſt not only his power but his life, being ſupplanted by the ſubtile practices of *John* afterwards Duke of *Northumberland*, who though he aſſumed not the other's title of Protector, yet bare no leſs ſway in the government, and demeaned himſelf with much greater inſolence than *Somerſet*. About this time Sir *Edward North*, finding way made upon him concerning his great office; thought good to ſtrengthen himſelf by alliance, matching his eldeſt Son with the Lady *Winifride* Daughter to *Richard* Lord *Rich*, then Lord Chancellor of *England*, and Widow to *Henry Dudley* eldeſt Son to the ſaid Duke of *Northumberland*; but neither that alliance, nor any of his other dependencies, gave him encouragement to ſeek farther advancement

during the reign of King *Edward*, ſo as then he endeavoured (as it ſeems) only to make good his former ſtation, waiting for better opportunity.

In the mean time, as appears by an account of his houſhold expences, he ſhewed himſelf worthy of greater honour, by living in a way of more eminency than hath been uſual with perſons of his condition in thoſe and the following times; and then alſo his wiſedom prompted him to have an eye to the Princeſs *Mary* next in ſucceſſion to the Crown, for he forgot not to put her in mind of him by preſents. This had been worthy of commendation, if he had done it only as a teſtimony of gratitude to her Father, but he may well be thought to have carried on a farther deſign in it, for we find not any ſuch thing done in relation to the Princeſs *Elizabeth* the other Siſter; and whether or no he did then diſcern ſome declination in the health of King *Edward*, who is ſaid to have died of a Conſumption, it is not eaſie to unfold. Yet ſuch was the iniquity of thoſe times, as his great foreſight could not prevent his being involved, together with the reſt of the Privy-Council, all the great officers, and moſt of the eminent perſons in and near the Court and City of *London*, in a danger (even by way of oppoſition to the ſaid Princeſs *Mary*) which in probability would have ſwallowed up any ſmall number of them, if they had been ſevered.

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For the Duke of *Northumberland*, foreſeeing the certainty of the King's death, had ſo wrought upon his tender age and weakneſs, as to make him (as far as in him lay) to diſinherit both his Siſters, and to eſtabliſh the Succeſſion in the Lady *Jane Grey*, his near kinſwoman then joined in Matrimony to the Lord *Guilford Dudley*, one of the Duke's Sons. This was done by Teſtament, and becauſe there was an Act of Parliament to the contrary, the Duke thought it not of ſufficient validity, without the concurrence and confirmation of all thoſe who were then in power; wherefore he cauſed a Subſcription to be tendered to every one of them, and ſo apprehenſive were they of his diſpleaſure with the conſequences of it, as there is no refuſal recorded but that of Sergeant *Hales* one of the puney Judges, for it ſeems that all the reſt ſubſcribed. This action of his may ſeem to queſtion both the Integrity and wiſedom of our Progenitor, and to vindicate him in it will require a digreſſion of ſome length. To plead infirmity as a defence, is not worthy of a perſon ſo eminent for wiſedom, though *Metus qui poteſt cadere in virum fortem*, doth very much excuſe; and though it may very well become a Stateſman to prevent a preſent danger with the hazard of a much greater in the future, for as the *Italians* ſay *Chi ha tempo ha vita*, He who hath time hath life; which conſideration made the then chief Juſtice of the *King's Bench* upon this very occa-

ſion, when his Brother of the *Common Pleas* told him that they might both of them be hanged twenty years after, if they ſhould ſubſcribe the Teſtament, to return this Anſwer, That it was moſt true, but yet as true, that if they ſubſcribed it not, the Duke of *Northumberland* might chance to hang them preſently. But in my opinion it is not much to be doubted but Sir *Edward North* had for his ſecurity a better reſerve, which is this, a knowing that the Princeſs *Mary* had received aſſurances from him, to be faithfull to her and to her intereſts in the way of allegiance, next to her Brother's perſon and Poſterity, if any ſhould be; which made her notwithſtanding this Subſcription, not only to continue him in his former dignity, but to advance him a degree higher in the very firſt year of her reign. And this courſe of his, to hold himſelf in power with an intention to ſerve his lawfull Sovereign who knew that intention, could not but be very ſerviceable to her, and being ſo, how could it give any great offence in a thing ſo generally done? And as for his own concernments, it cannot well be doubted but they would prompt him to his then compliance, ſelf preſervation at that very time being conceived neceſſary by ſo many perſons of known wiſedom; for though not impoſſible (as in nature where *A privatione ad habitum non datur regreſſus,*) yet it is very difficult, for perſons once outed to obtain a reſtitution

tution of Dignities and Poſſeſſions; and ſometimes it cannot be had at all, even by thoſe who ſeem to be very much advantaged with the preſent Governours, as may appear in the Poſterity of the Duke of *Norfolk*, and of the Lord *Dacre* of the *North*, whoſe Predeceſſours ſuffered for correſpondence with *Mary* Queen of *Scots*, and yet when the Son and Grandſon of the ſame Queen came to wear the Crown ſucceſſively, they could not recover their former rights. For ingenuity or open ſincerity, it is a moſt Chriſtian vertue, yet ſince the wiſedom of the Serpent is an allowed companion to the innocency of the Dove, that vertue cannot be ſo ſtrictly required in a Stateſman, as in other perſons, for elſe it had been a very horrid thing in *David*, a man according to God's own heart, to ſuborn his friend *Huſhai* to profeſs himſelf a Servant to his Son *Abſalom*, with an intention to ſupplant him and to ſubvert his Counſels, for that action of *David*'s is not at all diſapproved of in Scripture as others were. But to return to our buſineſs, In the year of our Lord 1553, King *Edward* came to the period of his life and reign, which though glorious for a great progreſs in the Churches reformation, yet otherwiſe was but turbulent, by reaſon of a preſuming upon the King's minority, both by the Commons who in ſeveral parts of the Kingdome aroſe in Rebellion, and did it ſo dangerouſly, as the State thought good to uſe

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Foreigners in the ſuppreſſion of them, a thing very unuſual in this Nation, and by the greater Nobles who divided themſelves into Factions, which ſome of them neareſt in relation to the King himſelf, paid for, with the loſs of their Heads even in his days, and others upon grounds then laid very ſhortly after. Upon King *Edward*'s death, this Kingdom fell from a condition of inſtability which it had often felt during the nonage of its Princes, to an eſtate which was then altogether unexperienced by us, to wit, the government of a Queen regnant, a thing which the French Nation profeſſeth utterly to abhor, and is called by them *Tomber en quinoüille*, or *to fall under the Diſtaff*. It is true, that this Crown had frequently paſſed to the Progeny of our Sovereigns Daughters, but before this time it was never ſet (much leſs ſettled) upon the head of any Woman. This might have raiſed great ſtorms, but it pleaſed the Divine Providence ſo to diſpoſe of things by way of preparation, as the Pill was ſwallowed down with great quietneſs; for firſt there was not then in being with us any male Prince of the bloud, as *Philip de Valois* had been in *France*, who there aſſumed the Crown to the diſheriſon of our *Edward* the Third; then this Nation had given its conſent in Parliament to an Entail of the Crown upon *Mary* and *Elizabeth* Daughters to King *Henry*. And laſt of all the Duke of *Northumberland*'s ambition

not

not being able to make way otherwiſe, had endeavoured to fix the Crown upon another Lady of Royal bloud, his Daughter in Law, ſo as by reaſon of this competition all the active ſpirits of the Nation, having no other adherence, became quickly engaged with one of the Competitreſſes, and ſo the other novelty was wholly put out of thought. The affection of this People was then ſo great to a right Succeſſion in the race of their Princes, as notwithſtanding hazard of the Churches late reformation (which a great part of the Nation had then ſet their hearts upon) and the intereſt of the moſt eminent perſons become poſſeſſours of Church-lands by way of exchange and otherwiſe, yet the Duke of *Northumberland* ſoon found the weakneſs of his deſigns which he thought ſo ſtrongly laid, and being forſaken by his party, became an aſſiſtant in the proclaiming of Queen *Mary*; but it was too late to prevent the loſs of his Head, which had ſhewed it ſelf ſo dangerous.

Thus Queen *Mary*, having her Sovereignty generally acknowledged, began her Reign, and being deſirous to give ſome teſtimony of a gracious diſpoſition, ſhe gave free pardon to all ſaving the Duke of *Northumberland*, the Lady *Jane*, and ſome few others. The Lords of the Council, who had ſubſcribed againſt her, and for ſome time had ſeemed to act in the ſame way, were included in the Pardon,

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and ſome of them continued in that great honour and truſt; which may ſeem ſtrange, conſidering that the deſigns of Queen *Mary* were ſo diametrally oppoſite to thoſe of King *Edward* in point of Religion, but the ſame oppoſition was between the Eccleſiaſtical policy and religion of Queen *Mary* and Queen *Elizabeth*, yet many of the old Counſellours were alſo held on by the latter; and it ſeems fit (if not neceſſary) that it ſhould be ſo, for great changes in a State cannot be wrought ſuddenly without great danger, and the doing of it maturely and judiciouſly, requireth not only an exact knowledge of matters formerly tranſacted, but alſo of their grounds and cauſes.

Of the Counſellours retained, Sir *Edward North* eaſily obtained to be one, and not only ſo, but in the firſt year of this Queens reign, he received an encreaſe of Dignity, being called to ſit in Parliament as a Baron, which is a character of the Queens favour not then extended to any other of the old Counſellours, though many of them held themſelves in favour with her even to the time of her death. And this ſheweth that ſhe intended a ſpecial reward to him, and preſuppoſeth a merit contracted by the performance of ſome former ſervice of eminence. It coſt her nothing, yet was it of very high value, for the dignity of Peerage was rarely conferred upon any but perſons of great worth and merit during the reigns of

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theſe two Siſters, though under the ſucceeding Princes it became not only more common but a kind of merchandize for the benefit of Courtiers. And now it appears how ſeaſonably he parted with his office of Chancellour of the Augmentations, for he did it upon valuable conſideration, whereas his ſucceſſour Sir *Richard Sackvill*, who held himſelf in grace all Queen *Mary*'s days, yet loſt it without any recompence at all.

One of the moſt remarkable occurrents during this Queens Reign, was her marriage with King *Philip* the Second of *Spain*, and conſidering that *Edward* Lord *North* is by our Hiſtorians ſpecified in the catalogue of thoſe Lords who were employed in his reception, and therefore likely as a Counſellour to have concurred all the way in the negotiating of that affair, perhaps it may not be thought improper to touch ſomewhat upon it. It might well be apprehended as a great danger to this People, for their Queen to match with a more potent Prince of another Nation, in reſpect that this Kingdom might by ſuch means become a Province, being deprived of the preſence of their Sovereign: But the tranſactours well knew, that this great King (whoſe vertues were ſo many, as they cannot find ſufficient room in this ſmall Treatiſe) was before his marriage here provided of a Son, to inherit his great Kingdom in caſe there had been iſſue by Queen *Mary*, which

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iſſue nevertheleſs of hers ſhould have enjoyed the *Burgundian* Provinces, a great acceſſion to his Crown, and free from the inconvenience before mentioned. And all other particulars were ſo well provided for in that buſineſs, as there appeared little intermixture of the Nations in the government during the Queens life, and no inconvenience at all upon her death. For *Edward* Lord *North*, he continued in good favour all the time of *Philip* and *Mary*, for he held his Counſellourſhip and was powerfull with the Queen to obtain grace for others, as may appear by the reſtitution in bloud of a perſon very highly deſcended and wrought by his mediation, which alſo could not but be a matter of good profit to him. And now this Queens reign not affording more matter relating to the ſubject of this diſcourſe, I muſt not leave untouched a reflexion indiſcreetly caſt upon this noble perſon by Mr. *Fox* in his Acts and Monuments, which is this. He ſaith, that he himſelf ſpake with a Woman who told him, that near the expected time of Queen *Mary*'s delivery (for ſhe conceived her ſelf to be with Child, and the whole Kingdom was poſſeſſed with ſuch an expectation) the Lord *North* and another Lord came to her, and would have prevailed with her to part with a child of hers newly born, but that ſhe utterly refuſed it ; and this Mr. *Fox* conceiveth to have been deſired as a ſuppoſititious Child for the Queen. The deſign it

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ſelf is ſo unprobable, either to have been truly ſuch, or to have been carried on by a perſon of ſo much honour and wiſedom, as it needeth little anſwer, for the Queen her ſelf was too vertuous (and religious in her way) to admit of ſuch a thought; Neither if there had been ſuch an intention, could it poſſibly have been concealed, being the concernment of ſo great Princes and Nations. And queſtionleſs the ſucceeding Queen would never have caſt the leaſt honour, or placed any truſt upon this Lord or his Son *Roger* Lord *North*, (whom ſhe made a Privy-Counſellour and near officer about her) if ſhe had given the leaſt credit to that Calumny. It is therefore a wonder that Mr. *Fox* ſhould inſert in his Hiſtory ſo trivial a thing, and caſting ſo great a Scandal, having received it from a mean perſon (in an extrajudicial way,) who perhaps might be hired to the affirmation, for certainly he could not have found a more ready way to abate the credit of his other Narrations. But however it was concerning Queen *Mary*'s conception, whether it were only fancied by her, or in it ſelf real with an abortion following, it is certain that ſhe lived not long after, for ſhe fell preſently into a deep ſadneſs of ſpirit, and ended her days in the year 1558, having reigned but a ſhort time, and very unhappily even in her own opinion, for ſhe thought the loſs of *Calais* (which was the laſt footing of our Nation in *France*)

to

to be an irreparable blemiſh to her government; yet was there much bloud ſhed at home for Religion. which better might have deſerved her ſorrow, but ſhe according to the Prophecy of our bleſſed *Saviour*, thought ſhe did God good ſervice in it.

She was a Princeſs very eminent for Vertue and Piety, but too flexible (a weakneſs incident to her ſex, which is not ſo fit to govern in publick matters,) referring almoſt all to others, but eſpecially in matters of Religion to her Prelates. Theſe ſhe ſhould have conſidered, as too much intereſted and over-violent in things tending to their own power and greatneſs.

The ſubjects of a Tyrant, who manageth his own affairs, prove for the moſt part not ſo unhappy, as of thoſe of a mild Prince who putteth the whole care of Government upon ſome choice inſtruments, for they become many Tyrants in ſtead of one, and being of a more ſervile condition, are uſually ſteered by more ſordid ends. Yet is the Prince himſelf anſwerable for their faults, and ſo certainly was this Queen, and the rather becauſe in reſpect of her engagement to uphold the Papal power, ſhe may be thought not to have given an unwilling conſent to thoſe horrid cruelties, but *Sanguis martyrum eſt ſemen Eccleſiæ*, which ſaying it pleaſed God to verifie moſt ſtrangely at that time, as may appear in the Reformation perfected and ſettled immediately after Queen *Mary's* days.

Queen

Queen *Elizabeth's* entry upon her Reign, was embraced with a general applauſe, by the Proteſtants cordially, for they concluded her well affected to their principles, and by the Papiſts ſeemingly, becauſe ſhe was yet theirs in outward profeſſion, as appeared by the Popiſh Ceremonies uſed at her Coronation; yet theſe could not but be very diſtruſtfull, knowing her intereſt to be directly oppoſite to that of her Siſter, for if the Pope had power to Legitimate the marriage with *Katharine* of *Arragon*, Mother to Queen *Mary*, then that with *Ann* of *Bullen*, Mother to Queen *Elizabeth*, being ſolemnized living the other, muſt of neceſſity be invalide.

This Queen preſently made an alteration at the Council-Table, retaining ſome, and diſmiſſing others. Of the latter ſort was *Edward* Lord *North*, and whether or no it was his own deſire by reaſon of age and infirmity we know not, but certain it is that he was not under any great diſpleaſure, for the Queen finding it requiſite to erect a Lieutenancy for command of the Militia, and ordering of Muſters in each County, made choice of him for that truſt in *Cambridge-ſhire* and the Iſle of *Ely*. This ſhe did in the firſt year of her reign, and by another Patent in her ſecond year, ſhe confirmed it unto him. But this power was ſoon reſumed, and as I conceive, laid down generally for the preſent, which giveth occaſion to ſay ſomething Hiſtorically of the Militia of this Kingdom.

Anciently the Martial forces were of two kinds, extraordinary or ordinary. The extraordinary consisted of Mercenaries, serving for Pay, and taken into service upon the occasion. The ordinary were partly such as lay under an obligation by the tenure of their Lands to serve their Prince, and this comprized all the Nobility and Gentry of the Land with their Tenants; and these were they by whose help our Kings made so great Conquests, and became so formidable abroad, for if the Tenants answered not the expectation of their Landlord, it was in the Landlord's power to turn them out of the Estates which they held, but especially such as were Copyholders. This power of great men, as it was extremely usefull against Foreigners, so it grew dangerous at home, for that means there was great and frequent oppositions made against the Princes, by Civil War managed by the Nobles, whose Tenants were necessitated to serve them, and this made the Kings so far to diminish this power upon Tenants at Will, by frequent decisions of their Judges, giving to Copyholders a Tenure by custom, as they grew altogether deaf at the call of their Landlords; And so it was found by this our *Edward*, and others who would have used their Tenants for service of the Crown in foreign wars under *Henry* the 8th. This was some inconvenience to the Prince, but little in comparison of that which hath shewed it self in these latter

latter times, wherein the Commonalty or third Eſtate hath aſſumed a power, not only to ſubject their Sovereign to a juriſdiction eſtabliſhed by the ſaid Commons, but to aboliſh the Regal power it ſelf, and as a conſequent thereunto, to bring the ancient Peerage to a level with themſelves. And this may be very much attributed to the former extirpation of power in great perſons, who ſtood as a wall of defence between Prince and People. The other part of the ordinary Militia conſiſted in the arraying of all perſons fit for War defenſive, and this was firſt managed by Commiſſioners of Array, authoriſed from time to time by the Kings themſelves, which made them to countenance it much more than the other. But in proceſs of time this power reſiding in many, who are more ſubject to find out dilatory ſcruples than a ſingle perſon, gave occaſion to the Princes more to affect the placing of it in ſome one, for one may more eaſily be commanded, and is more ſubject to an account upon miſcarriage. But on the other ſide this gave more offence to the Commons in Parliament, who bear the Purſe for ſupply of their Princes extraordinary occaſions, which perhaps might be the cauſe of Queen *Elizabeth's* laying it down for that time, though ſhe reſumed it afterwards.

After this, it appeareth not that *Edward* Lord *North* ever deſired other than an exemption from publick employments, with a quiet

enjoyment of himſelf and of the fruits of his paſt labours; and in this it pleaſed God to bleſs him very far, for he had little publick moleſtation, yet was he not free from diſquiet at home, by reaſon of ſome apprehenſions ariſing within his own family by the prodigality of his eldeſt Son, for whom as is expreſt in his Will, he was conſtrained at the laſt to pay a great debt, beſides much of the ſame nature formerly. In thoſe days the ſum which he paid was eſteemed very great, yet was not the debt ſo conſiderable in his thoughts, as a diſpoſition in his Son (eaſily diſcernible as he eſteemed) to proceed in the ſame way of expence. He feared that this would make the young man to exceed all bounds when he ſhould become maſter of his Eſtate, which made the impreſſion ſo deep with him, as he failed not to admoniſh his Son in the ſaid Will with very great reflexions upon him, as to his prudence; and perhaps it wrought great effects after the Father's death. And here may be noted, that the ableſt perſons make their judgments as to the future with great incertainty, for *Roger* Lord *North* proved a moſt induſtrious and provident man, and a perſon of great honour, for he was Ambaſſadour extraordinary from Queen *Elizabeth* to *Charles* the 9th. of *France*, and bare many other publick employments abroad and at home, till at the laſt he became Treaſurer of the houſhold to the Queen, and one of her Privy-Council, dying

dying with that Character upon him, in which he exceeded his Father. Neither had *Edward* Lord *North* any greater hopes of Sir *Thomas North* his other Son, who though a man of courage, a man learned (as appears by divers tranſlations of his,) and indued with very good parts otherwiſe, yet never had a ſteadineſs comparable to his Brother, which made the Father to ſettle his Eſtate by way of Entail, as ſtrongly to prevent Alienations as the Law of thoſe times would bear, with a remainder to his Kindred of *Walkeringam*, as hath been already touched. And in the year 1563, he made the Will before-mentioned, and conſtituted Sir *William Cordall* and Sir *James Dyer* Executors of the ſame, both of them perſons very eminent in thoſe times, Sir *William* being Maſter of the Rolls, and Sir *James Dyer* Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas. In the year ſucceeding, having crowned his wiſedom by a diſcreet ſettlement of his private fortune, he paid his laſt debt to Nature, ending his life with the *Julian* year on the laſt day of *December*, and ſo changed this for a better, being then about the 68th. year of his age, as near as we can gather by conjecture. Thus terminated the life of this noble and worthy perſon, who hid not the talent wherewith his Maker entruſted him, but improved it for the advantage of his Nation and Family, which ought to be an eternal honour to him.

His marriages were two, whereof the firſt

was to *Alice Squier* Daughter to a Gentleman eſtated in *Hamp-ſhire*, ſhe then being Widow of *Edward Myrfyn* Son to an Alderman of *London*, ſo named, and having alſo had a former Husband called *Brigantine* or *Brickenden*, and by each of theſe Husbands one Son. By this Wife he had four Children, whereof *Roger* Lord *North* and Sir *Thomas North* have already been named, and in ſome ſort Characterized herein. The other two were Daughters, whereof *Chriſtian* the elder was married to *William* Earl of *Worceſter*, and *Mary* the younger to *Henry* Lord *Scroope* of *Bolton*. Of every one of theſe four there is Poſterity left, and now grown ſo numerous in the whole, and it is become ſo far an honour to their common Progenitor, as I my ſelf, who am the Grandchild of his Grandchild, may in the year of our Lord 1658, affirm, that I know not any of the Race that have as yet applied themſelves to courſes diſhoneſt or diſhonourable. This Lady *Alice*, as ſhe brought him a conſiderable eſtate in Marriage, ſo ſhe was a great and conſtant aſſiſtant to him in the improvement of his fortunes, always ſhewing her ſelf a diſcreet and provident perſon in the government of his domeſtique affairs; and ſhe continued ſo till the time of her death, which hapned ſome four or five years before that of her husband, who failed not to yield a fair mention of her goodneſs in his Teſtament, deſiring alſo to be buried with her at *Kirtling*.

ling. His ſecond and laſt Wife was the Lady *Margaret* Widow to Sir *David Brooke*, and ſurely ſhe was a perſon worthy of his choice, for he ſhewed much care of her in his laſt ſettlement by Will, which is all that I ſhall need to ſay of her.

By his Picture, whereof there is yet a copy remaining with us, he appears to have been a perſon of moderate ſtature, ſomewhat inclining to corpulency, and of a reddiſh hair. As for his inward abilities, it were extravagant to queſtion them, in a man ſo verſed in affairs of State as a Privy-Counſellour, and that ſate at the Stern ſo many years in an eminent place of Judicature. Such perſons ſeldom want elocution ſufficient, but if we may judge of his Oratory by his Letters, he ſeemed rather to have affected the delivery of a full and clear ſenſe, than any curioſity of ſtyle or expreſſion. I have heard, that being quick of apprehenſion he was much inclin'd to ſudden anger, wherein certainly he greatly moderated himſelf, for otherwiſe he could not ſo well have undergon employments requiring ſo great a temper.

The bravery of his mind may beſt be judged of, by his delight to live in an equipage rather above than under his condition or degree, as hath been already hinted, and by his magnificence in other kinds, but eſpecially by his buildings, which were very noble for materials and workman-ſhip, as may appear by the

two houſes which he ſet up at *Kirtling* and *Charterhouſe*, both in being at this day. To prove that he was a great lover of Learning and Scholars, we have two witneſſes no ways liable to exception. The firſt is the Univerſity of *Cambridge*, whoſe body hath no conſiderable revenue, but what ariſeth from the Parſonage of *Burwell* given by him. And it were pity to omit the manner of that Settlement, ſince that by it he expreſt a deſire of future correſpondence between that Univerſity and the chief of his Family; for to the Vicaridge of *Burwell*, during its vacancy, the Univerſity nominates two Clarks, and the Lord *North* for the time being, preſents one of them at his choice. Our other witneſs is *Peterhouſe*, the ancienteſt College of that Univerſity, to which foundation, as a token of his gratitude for that which he gathered there in the way of Learning, he gave the Parſonage of *Ellington*, and ſo became one of their beſt Benefactours, as they cannot but acknowledge.

As for Piety and Charity, it will be hard to give evidence in particular about a hundred years after a man's deceaſe, farther than may be extracted from Records and publick Monuments. Under the head of Piety, I think we may comprehend his care to provide Chapels in ſuch houſes as he built, for thereby appears a deſire in him of an aſſiduity in the ſervice of God by himſelf and his family, which care of

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providing peculiar places for divine Service within Families, was too much neglected in the age immediately following, as may be witneſſed by many great and ſtately Houſes then built. And may it not fall under the ſame title of Piety, to build a Chapel expreſly for the enterment of his Poſterity, for though the main ſuperſtition was expired, yet Burials in thoſe days were attended with the performance of much religious duty? Under the title of Charity I ſhall place the above mentioned gifts to the Univerſity, and to *Peterhouſe*, and I may add to them a care had in his Teſtament, of ſome perſons no ways relating to him in bloud. And if Charity be truly ſaid to begin at home, then it may fall under that head, to make proviſion of a fair ſubſiſtence for his Poſterity, according to the degree wherein they were placed (as far as it might be done without obliquity in other kinds,) and that was always driven at by this noble Lord. For the Chapel of Enterment, it was raiſed by him, adjoining to the ſouth-part of the Chancel in *Kirtling* Church, and there at the very juncture of the Chancel and Chapel, he himſelf is entombed with a decent Monument of Black Marble, erected by his Executors, and the enſuing Inſcripton,

Edvardum Northum *finxit natura beatum,*
Addidit & magnas gratia Regis opes;

Providus

Providus & ſapiens magnos ſuſcepit Honores,
Et tamen in tanto Comis honore fuit.
Quæ natura dedit, quæ gratia principis auxit
Omnia Mors una ſuſtulit atra die.

Now having brought this noble Lord to his Epitaph, that which I have more to ſay is to the Epitaph it ſelf, and this it is. That the Poet hath mentioned ſome vertues which were purpoſely omitted by me, as being to be found there, but he is fallen much ſhort of the Perſon's merit, and of that which might eaſily have been expreſſed in ſo many lines. Perhaps the latter may be ſaid of my relations and deſcription of him; but for me, I ſhall ſatisfie my ſelf with the knowledge of my fair intention, having choſen rather to be defective, than wholly to omit the performance of that which by me was conceived to be little leſs than a duty. And ſo I ſet a period to this buſineſs.

As all by Natures fatal courſe muſt dye,
So all are ſhar'd in vaſt Eternity;
The wiſe as brightneſs of the Heaven
ſhall ſhine,
Dan. 12. *While others by their crimes obſcur'd*
remain.
Let pious actings then adorn our Story,
Thus Death brings Fame, and leads to endleſs
Glory.

FINIS.

To the Reverend the Maſter of St. *Peter*'s College in *Cambridge*, and to the Fellows and Scholars of the ſame.

GENTLEMEN,

AFter a violent tempeſt (and of continuance ſcarcely compatible with ſuch violence) about the government of our Church, State, and Nation, when at laſt there appeared ſome ſerenity of the heavens, and days that may well be termed Halcyon *in reſpect of the former, I being a perſon who by reaſon of a publick truſt had been involved to the bearing of ſome part in thoſe actings, (though of a temper totally abhorrent from thoſe Salamanders that were delighted in ſuch a fiery reſidence) found my ſelf reſtored to ſome kind of freedom, and was ſo far from thinking it improper for me, as I conceived it a kind of piety and duty in reſpect of Relations in bloud and gratitude, to beſtow ſome of my ſpare time in the peruſal of Parchments and Papers, (ἀρχαῖα καὶ παραπεμμένα) concerning the life and tranſactions of a noble Progenitor of my own, who in a publick way of eminency lived ſerviceable to his Generation when God gave him being; and conſidering that he flouriſhed in a time remote from the preſent, and little relating to our late affairs, I conceived that I might inoffenſively tranſmit my Obſervations to Poſterity, not omitting the delivery of ſome truths which may ſeem to be of general concernment. This made me reduce my*

Notes

Notes to ſome kind of Method, and doing ſo I cannot but wiſh unto them a competency of duration, they having not only reference to a perſon whoſe memory is moſt dear unto me, but being a kind of Iſſue or Off-ſpring of my own, which laſt is a conſideration too apt to beget a partiality of Affection if not of Judgment. I never coveted the honour of the Preſs, much leſs ſhould I do it in a time of ſo much proſtitution. It ſhall therefore ſatisfie me to recommend this ſmall Diſcourſe of mine in the way of Manuſcript *to ſome of thoſe who may acknowledge themſelves to have relation to it, and I hope it will not prove offenſive if I make this my firſt addreſs unto your Society, ſince you are not aſhamed to own* Edward *Lord* North *(who is the only Subject of this little Work) as one of your nobleſt and moſt free Benefactours. And for my ſelf, though when firſt I became a* Cantabrigian, *my Parents put me to ſuck at the breaſt of another Houſe, as my Nurſe, which hath ſecured unto her the chief place in my affection, yet the Univerſity being my Mother, I cannot but have a ſpecial reſpect unto yours, as being her moſt ancient foundation. I dare not term* Peterhouſe *the heart of the Univerſity, becauſe it would draw too much envy upon you, yet none of her Siſters can deny that ſhe had the property of the heart to be* Primum movens, *and I think that neither they nor we can with any patience admit the leaſt thought of a trial by* ultimum moriens. *I may juſtly affirm that no man can wiſh unto your Fraternity*

a longer

a longer and more happy continuance, for my desire extends even to perpetuity it self, if the nature of things could bear it. The truth is, that I do presage a very great length of time, finding the dispensations of Divine Providence to have been such as seem to design the prevention of a second Chaos, which state of darkness and confusion, should it once overspread the Land could not but put the great Luminaries of it to the hazard of being extinguished. Blame me not therefore if I desire to deposite with you this small Tractate, which may be dear to some of us in respect of its Relations, though not precious in it self, as being a Portraict drawn by an unskilfull Artist, and set out with ill mixed colours. But such as it is, the care of preserving it is a trust, and if you shall be pleased so far to accept of that trust, as to afford a place in your College Library to this little Work (being the Hand-writing of a Lady) it will lay a fresh obligation upon him who already is

Yours most affectionate

to serve you

DUDLEY NORTH.

To the Reverend the Vice-Chancellour, and other the Heads and Governours of the University of *Cambridge*.

IT was an effect of Superstition in the ancient Heathen, to ascribe unto Fountains of most Eminence a kind of Divinity, finding in them a perennity more than is to be had in other sublunary beings; which Art of theirs was not only Impious in it self, but Injurious to the true Deity, *for how can that be justly imputed to any part of the Creation, which is peculiar to the* Creator, *that infinitely pure Essence, from whose effluence all that is, or hereafter can be, must have its derivation? Yet certainly it can no way participate of evil, to afford honour next to those Divine, unto fountains of Learning, which learning so adds light to natural Reason, as gives it ability to search into all the secrets of Nature, and to unfold those mysteries, which we have by Divine revelation, so as to impart them with advantage unto Subjects capable of such sublime notions. Such a fountain is our University of* Cambridge, *from whom (together with her Sister of* Oxford) *this Nation must acknowledge to have received the honour and happiness, not only to enjoy it her self, but to have imparted to Foreigners, much of that encrease of knowledge both Natural and Theological, wherewith the World is at this time furnished. Of this honour and common benefit the heart of each intelligent* Englishman *ought to receive an impression,*

impreſſion, and more eſpecially the heart of ſuch perſons as are Sons of either Univerſity. But becauſe Gratitude concealed yields little fruit, therefore I (though one of thoſe who have taken from the Cantabrigian Helicon *leaſt water) hold my ſelf bound rather to break ſilence than to run the hazard of being cenſured for Ingratitude. And becauſe I have nothing worthy in it ſelf, to be offered to my Mother the Univerſity, I adventure to preſent unto Her (by an addreſs unto you Her chief Officers) that which may be eſteemed worthy in reſpect of relation unto Her ſelf, which is the Life of* Edward *Lord* North, *one of Her chief Benefactours. And that he was ſo, may appear by this, that the Patronage of* Burwell *Rectory was his Inheritance, and appropriated to the Univerſity of* Cambridge *by his ſolicitation and favour with the then King, and (as we firmly believe) at his own charge: This is the moſt profitable Poſſeſſion (as I have heard) that the Univerſity is endowed with, and yet the matter is ſo far miſtaken, as in your Annual Commemoration of Benefactours,* Edward *Lord* North *is wholly left out, and the gift of* Burwell *is attributed only to* Henry *the Eight, his Prince and Maſter, with whom it was too uſual to aſſume unto himſelf the honour of other mens Bounty and Charity. For proof of this I muſt requeſt your peruſal of the enſuing ſhort Tractate, and the Tranſcript of an Evidence ſubjoined to it, which cannot but be upon Record ſomewhere. When you ſhall have given me ſo much reading, and dele-*

gated

gated ſome perſon to make ſearch in your Writings, I ſhall have no reaſon, either to doubt your aſſent to what I have affirmed, or to deſpair of right to be done in future commemorations. And you cannot blame us of his Progeny, if we be unwilling to loſe the honour of his having been Benefactour to ſo honourable and eminent a Society. As for Edward *Lord* North, *I may well hope, that upon reading, you will find him a perſon worthy to be owned in ſuch a Relation. And for the Diſcourſe it ſelf, I am unwilling to doubt your affording it the honour of a place in the Univerſity Library; for though it were written in a time of unparallell'd trouble and confuſion, when the beſt converſation of Good men was with their own thoughts, and when Hiſtorical Truth was dangerous, yet it containeth (as I think nothing apt to give offence, and perhaps ſomething of Hiſtory will be found there, which untouched by others, may become a pleaſing entertainment to the Reader. I muſt not omit the asking your pardon, for filling empty Leaves with thoſe abrupt Occaſionals, which durſt not have appeared in your preſence alone, and have little to ſay for themſelves, but that they are born of the ſame parent with the other. I muſt confeſs in both parts a great vacuity of learning, and that the ſtyle will be found rough and unpleaſant, both which faults are ſcarce pardonable with Scholars, yet having a ſincere intention in the addreſs, I caſt my ſelf upon your favour, and am*

Yours moſt affectionate to ſerve you,

DUD. NORTH.